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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

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FL. 245

SEPTEMBER, 1963

Employment Peak Past But Good Trends Stay

Industrial employment in Montana showed the first signs of a mild leveling off during August. Non-farm employment dropped by 400 from July, leaving a total of 178,000 wage earners on industrial payrolls at mid-August. The decline between these two months last year was 600. Employment this August beats the average August employment of the past 10 years by 2,400. The final non-farm employment figure for July was 178,400 after the audit of payroll records of 1,313 reporting establishments. Employment is expected to hold up well during September and October with only moderate declines in those industries which normally bend to seasonal pressures.

Seasonal Declines Show

Moderate employment declines were recorded in five basic major industry groups from July payrolls. Employment advanced in two, and one showed no change. The largest employment deficit of 500 occurred in manufacturing where the final windup of missile assembly and installation continued to furlough workers. Employment in other manufacturing, including lumbering and metal, kept at July levels. There were 300 fewer workers on payrolls of the service industries including hotels and personal services as business started to drop near the end of the tourist season. Other employment declines from July were in government, down 200; with mining, and finance, insurance, and real estate establishments each posting a deficit of 100 workers.

GOOD EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK NEXT TWO MONTHS

Although the employment peak for this season has apparently been reached, good employment trends are expected to remain throughout September and October. Widespread hiring in farm and industry highlighted the August employment picture, resulting in 9,300 job placements. There was more hiring at Butte mining operations. The lumber industry looked stronger with settlement of a major lumber industry dispute. More than 150 new men were hired to replace those who did not return after the strike settlement. Some seasonal declines will naturally occur during the next several months. These are expected to be offset by the start of several major building projects, increased demand for agricultural and food processing workers, and good labor demand in trade establishments. All add up to a good employment picture before the winter season begins.

August employment in transportation, communications, and utilities, at 18,700, remained the same as the July total. Contract construction and the trade industries followed more positive trends. Construction was up 500 and trade gained 300 workers.

Four Exceed Last Year

Four major industries had higher employment totals this year than last. Government headed the list with a gain of 1,100 as state and local payrolls were heavier by 1,200 but a drop of 100 was recorded at the federal level. Most of this employment increment is associated with the state's educational institutions. Mining payrolls were up by 500 followed by gains of 200 in finance, insurance, and real estate units, and 100 in the service industries. Employment declines from last year were centered in manufacturing, down 1,100; construction, down 300; and transportation, communications, and utilities, and trade industries each down 200.

Farm Front Active

Thousands of farm and ranch workers were kept busy in a variety of agricultural activities during August. Work in the grain fields is now virtually completed. The sweet corn harvest and canning is well underway in the Billings area employing over 200. The upcoming potato and sugar beet harvests will provide employment for thousands of additional workers in picking and processing of these crops. Much of Montana's farm labor force is highly mobile and moves from one area to another as needed. The flow of transient farm labor was considerably less this year than in years past.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	1) July 1963	2) June 1963	July 1962	July 1963	June 1963	July 1962	July 1963	June 1963	July 1962	July 1963	June 1963	July 1962
3) All Manufacturing	4.1	7.9	4.2	3.2	6.7	3.5	4.0	4.9	3.8	1.6	3.2	1.9
Durable Goods	4.7	9.2	4.7	3.6	7.7	3.7	4.9	5.8	4.2	1.7	3.5	2.1
Primary Metal	4.7	4.3	1.8	.4	1.2	.6	6.3	5.1	3.2	.4	1.5	1.1
3) Nondurable Goods	2.6	4.9	3.1	2.2	4.3	2.9	2.0	2.8	2.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
All Mining	7.2	8.1	6.6	4.0	4.9	3.2	7.5	8.7	7.3	3.5	5.1	3.5
Metal Mining	7.2	7.1	4.1	2.3	2.3	1.2	6.8	7.5	8.8	3.8	3.8	3.2

1) Preliminary rates used on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line—

Field Summary August 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(478 jobseekers, 108 new, 303 men, 175 women). Some seasonal improvement noted in most industries during August but declines in metal manufacturing and railroads cloud the overall economic picture. Continuing layoffs at the smelter, as copper concentrating gradually shifts to the new plant at Butte, will cause declines in trade and service units.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,025 jobseekers, 865 new, 1,230 men, 795 women). Employment trends in industry and agriculture hold close to peak levels. Work on \$15½ million refinery expansion and pipeline started in earnest with 100 employed. Yellowtail Dam, now one-third completed, employs 1,000. August building permits totaled one-third million dollars with most for residential construction. Upswing in demand for trade and service workers as replacements for students returning to school. The grain harvest is over but other farm activities just starting. About 250 employed in sweet corn picking and canning operations. Sugar beet harvest and refining to start October 1.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(186 jobseekers, 195 new, 78 men, 108 women). High levels of activity dominated all industry groups during August. Construction especially strong in many different fields including educational, industrial, commercial building, and highway projects. Manufacturing and trade industry at peak employment; more possible expansion seen for manufacturing. Potato harvest to start September 20; good labor demand for other farm work.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(678 jobseekers, 292 new, 423 men, 255 women). Increased hiring at the metal mines highlighted August labor market developments. Construction payrolls being reduced gradually as some major project near completion, including copper concentrator and shopping center. Plans for another shopping center announced with estimated cost of \$600,000. Highway construction keeps on track, schedule with full crews.

CITY BANK—(293 jobseekers, 88 new, 213 men, 50 women). Most labor market activity was in various construction projects. Start of new public works project at Browning made 70 of New Browning lumber mill set to be in operation in October, employing 30. Farm crops provided fair yield with steady farm labor demand.

DILLON—(72 jobseekers, 62 new, 27

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	Aug. 1963	July 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. 1954-63
Industrial Employment	178,000	178,400	177,900	175,800
New Job Applicants	3,840	4,528	4,136	3,837
Job Applicants, End of Month	8,768	10,064	7,460	6,513
Insured Unemployment Week of	Sept. 6 1963	Aug. 2 1963	Sept. 9 1962	Avg. 1st Sept. Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	517	461	451	697
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,325	2,928	2,558	2,919
Total Unemployed Claims	2,842	3,389	3,009	3,616

men, 45 women). Construction and farm hiring at top of the August labor market agenda. New construction projects include highway work, college dormitory, and facilities for earth filled dam. Good demand for farm hands with wages ranging from \$150 to \$200 per month with room and board.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(124 jobseekers, 83 new, 33 men, 91 women). Construction employment rose to 250 as work progressed on air base projects. Severe wind and rain storm caused considerable damage to some facilities, temporarily idling 20 workmen. Fifty men employed on Malta street improvement project. Main street business shows good upsurge with back-to-school buying. Farm equipment, truck, and automobile dealers also doing well.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(110 jobseekers, 40 new, 57 men, 53 women). Active trends in most industry groups with exception of oil fields, but signs of some new activity seen here for the coming months. New shopping center slated for completion by October 15. Active farm labor demand with preparation for sugar beet harvest underway.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,815 jobseekers, 606 new, 1,058 men, 757 women). Agriculture provided most August jobs as heavy demand for harvest workers developed. Trade and service industries provided most of non-farm job orders as back-to-school buying campaign started. Construction still active but not up to last year's volume. Twice as many jobseekers registered this August than last because of laid off missile site workers.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(118 jobseekers, 57 new, 78 men, 40 women). Autumn labor market trends holding up fairly well in all industry groups. Good demand for service industry workers; shortages of cooks and waitresses evident. Little change in construction totals. Work to start on new Victor school in September, a \$105,000 project.

HAVRE, Chinook, Hartel—(76 jobseekers, 67 new, 47 men, 29 women). In-

dustry hiring below last month and last year with declining activity in construction, railroads, and tourism. Farm hiring dropped from July but above last year. Overall economic trends do not appear too favorable during the coming winter months.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(351 jobseekers, 136 new, 208 men, 143 women). Overall labor demand during August was rather slow. Only logging and lumbering classifications were in short supply. Practically no hiring occurred in construction. Sharp drop in tourist traffic affected main street establishments. Outlook for September appears brighter with opening of new shopping center to employ 40, and additions to veterans' administration hospital.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(516 jobseekers, 223 new, 384 men, 132 women). Settlement of lumber industry dispute and increased hiring in construction and trade industries made for a good labor market picture during August. About 150 new men have been hired at a major Libby lumber mill to replace those workers who did not return at the end of the strike. Brisk construction hiring expected next 30-60 days as several major projects begin. Farm labor demand mostly for hay hands; potato harvest to start late September.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(142 jobseekers, 65 new, 79 men, 63 women). Building and road projects in progress total \$1.7 million. Labor supply adequate to meet present demands. Industry hiring down 30% from last year with completion of major federal projects. Farm labor demand shows drop of 23% from last year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(101 jobseekers, 73 new, 51 men, 50 women). Labor demand fairly active in all industries except railroads where no change was noted. Logging and sawmills at peak activity with labor shortages evident in both. Demand for trade and service industries both in town and at Yellowstone Park to replace workers returning to schools and colleges.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	150.6	151.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	150.3	155.0	156.3	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.3	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	153.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	169.4	175.3	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.3	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	153.2	153.2	159.6	165.5	170.9	179.4	178.5	177.9	175.8	174.2	172.3	169.6	170.0
1963	161.9	161.5	162.7	167.9	171.4	179.0	173.4	173.0*					

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary August 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(178 jobseekers, 112 new, 93 men, 85 women). Employment trends in industry and farm show improvement over last month. Some decline from last year evident in service industry groups. Road and building projects employ over 170. Grain and hay crop yields exceed last year; sugar beet harvest next on the agenda.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,042 jobseekers, 404 new, 702 men, 340 women). Brisk employment trends prevailed during August despite 7 different strikes during the summer months. Hiring most active in service industries and in lumber and sawmill units, where hiring doubled from last year. Trade industries slacked off but improvement expected during the next few months as new retail stores open.

POLSON—(152 jobseekers, 55 new, 103 men, 49 women). Labor market trends in industry and farm continue on the passive side. Construction slow with no new projects in sight. More jobs seen in lumber and sawmill activities during September as working students return to school. Farm labor demand not too sharp.

SHELBY—(100 jobseekers, 92 new, 49 men, 51 women). Industry job placements down 60% from last year due chiefly to poor farm crops this year. Wheat crops yielded only an average of from 6 to 10 bushels per acre. Hiring by main street establishments at low ebb.

SIDNEY—(102 jobseekers, 80 new, 57 men, 45 women). Good demand for all worker classifications during August with some shortages still persisting. One-third million dollars in construction projects provided good measure of job openings. Trade and service volume at good seasonal level. Sugar beet harvest to start mid-September.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(55 jobseekers, 37 new, 39 men, 16 women). Labor demand keeps at good levels with most job orders for logging, sawmill and construction workers. Work 25% completed on \$95,000 ranger station facilities at Noxon, a public works project. New bowling alley—cafe ready for business mid-September.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(56 jobseekers, 100 new, 32 men, 24 women). Active trends in trade, construction, and agriculture during August. Shortages of cooks, waitresses, tractor and auto mechanics apparent. New construction starts include telephone buildings at Culbertson and Plentywood, and a grain elevator annex. Labor supply adequate now but some shortages of skilled workers may develop during September.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 827 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,313 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Aug. 1963 (2)	July 1963 (3)	Aug. 1962	July '63 to Aug. '63	Aug. '62 to Aug. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	178,000	178,400	177,900	—400	100
Manufacturing	21,900	22,400	23,000	—500	—1,100
Durable goods	14,400	15,000	15,400	—600	—1,000
Lumber and timber products	9,200	9,200	8,500	00	700
Primary metals	3,200	3,200	3,500	00	—300
Other (4)	2,000	2,600	3,400	—600	—1,400
Nondurable goods	7,500	7,400	7,600	100	—100
Food and kindred products	4,100	4,100	4,200	00	100
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,600	1,700	100	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	600	600	600	00	00
Mining	7,400	7,500	6,900	—100	500
Metal mining	4,000	4,000	3,700	00	300
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	1,000	700	—100	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,500	2,500	2,500	00	00
Contract Construction	14,700	14,200	15,000	500	—300
Contractors, building construction	4,900	4,700	3,200	200	1,700
Contractors, other than building	5,800	5,500	5,900	300	—100
Contractors, special trade	4,000	4,000	5,900	00	—1,900
Transportation and utilities	18,700	18,700	18,900	00	—200
Interstate railroads	8,300	8,300	8,400	00	—100
Transportation except railroads	4,500	4,500	4,300	00	200
Utilities including communication	5,900	5,900	6,200	00	—300
Trade	41,200	40,900	41,400	300	—200
Wholesale trade	8,200	8,200	8,300	00	—100
Retail trade	33,000	32,700	33,100	300	—100
General merchandise and apparel	6,300	6,300	6,200	00	100
Food stores	4,600	4,500	5,100	100	—500
Eating and drinking establishments	9,000	8,900	9,000	100	00
Automotive and filling stations	6,600	6,500	6,600	100	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,500	6,500	6,200	00	300
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,000	7,100	6,800	—100	200
Services and miscellaneous	25,300	25,600	25,200	—300	100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,100	4,500	4,100	—400	00
Personal services	2,200	2,100	2,000	100	200
Other (6)	19,000	19,000	19,100	00	—100
Government	41,800	42,000	40,700	—200	1,100
Federal	12,400	12,800	12,500	—400	—100
State and local	29,400	29,200	28,200	200	1,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,500	23,900	25,000	—400	—1,500
Manufacturing	3,400	3,700	4,700	—300	—1,300
Contract construction	2,600	2,500	3,200	100	—600
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	—100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,100	6,100	5,700	00	400
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	4,100	3,900	—100	100
Government	4,000	4,100	4,000	—100	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,500	23,500	23,300	00	200
Manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,500	00	00
Contract construction	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	—100
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,700	00	—200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,200	7,300	7,400	—100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,400	4,400	4,300	00	100
Government	3,700	3,700	3,400	00	300

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST 1963 AND AUGUST 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placement						UI Claims*				
	Aug. 1963		Aug. 1962		Aug. 1963		Aug. 1962		Aug. 1963			Aug. 1962			Wk 9-6				
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.			
Anaconda	108	16	45	4	478	27	557	127	90	34	124	24	84	31	115	30	172	427	
Billings	865	165	766	154	2,025	387	1,619	283	716	1,043	1,759	282	682	1,363	2,045	310	429	535	
Bozeman	195	30	205	26	186	19	177	27	170	90	260	37	307	154	461	103	45	35	
Butte	292	49	187	25	678	126	1,376	294	145	8	153	35	119	14	133	23	369	701	
Cut Bank	88	28	118	51	293	81	167	36	61	110	171	56	69	97	166	58	40	25	
Dillon	62	21	71	24	72	8	44	9	82	197	279	88	76	187	263	125	19	17	
Glasgow	83	7	156	41	124	6	161	12	127	426	553	79	153	306	72	36	55		
Glendive	40	5	72	9	110	11	147	14	64	256	320	26	105	326	431	26	22	15	
Great Falls	606	106	749	185	1,813	347	921	151	359	996	1,355	159	755	1,048	1,803	340	699	312	
Hamilton	57	5	49	4	118	23	117	13	51	338	389	27	105	307	412	29	44	46	
Helena	67	16	66	10	76	11	75	11	73	409	482	51	103	365	468	95	65	49	
Kalispell	223	50	401	85	516	118	487	114	211	136	110	246	87	260	75	335	96	128	111
Lewistown	65	20	95	11	142	32	67	9	125	203	328	90	164	276	440	137	94	30	
Livingston	73	7	44	4	101	13	69	10	116	58	174	37	83	72	155	35	38	37	
Miles City	112	8	86	16	178	11	96	12	121	251	372	52	123	323	446	62	44	24	
Missoula	404	58	495	59	1,042	104	564	79	322	114	436	143	317	124	441	125	216	202	
Polson	55	10	60	8	152	20	136	29	40	26	66	8	146	146	292	47	64	54	
Shelby	92	21	93	27	100	10	155	40	59	93	152	26	97	89	186	49	23	32	
Sidney	80	11	65	12	102	4	55	7	161	101	262	49	137	43	180	50	26	12	
Thompson Falls	37	9	38	10	55	13	78	11	65	65	13	50	2	52	15	31	24		
Wolf Point	100	20	92	16	56	6	133	21	64	262	326	45	37	147	181	47	22	28	
TOTALS	3,840	692	4,136	819	8,768	1,446	7,460	1,381	3,358	5,167	8,525	1,465	4,315	5,619	9,924	2,016	2,842	3,009	

*Includes 200 claims of the Fed UC Program 180 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug. (1) 1963	July (2) 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. (1) 1963	July (2) 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. (1) 1963	July (2) 1963	Aug. 1962
All Manufacturing	\$101.78	\$100.44	\$105.47	38.7	37.9	41.2	2.63	2.65	2.56
Durable Goods	98.56	96.94	104.58	38.2	37.0	41.5	2.58	2.62	2.52
Primary Metals	108.63	108.40	101.64	39.5	40.0	38.5	2.75	2.71	2.64
Nondurable Goods	106.52	108.13	107.46	39.6	39.9	40.4	2.69	2.71	2.66
Food and Kindred Products	90.89	91.49	92.40	41.5	41.4	42.0	2.19	2.21	2.20
All Mining	113.79	114.09	105.54	42.3	42.1	38.8	2.69	2.71	2.72
Metal Mining	112.18	112.18	97.41	39.5	39.5	34.3	2.84	2.84	2.84
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	110.35	104.67	92.99	41.8	39.8	37.8	2.64	2.63	2.46

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns. (3) Lumber strike began middle of survey week. (July 1963) 1,100 workers involved. Wage rate increase. Industries 10 and 33 effective in July 1963.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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